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January 21, 1966

Dr. Robert F. Thorne
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 North College Ave.
Claremont, California

Dear Dr. Thorne:

Here we are off to a flying (?) start for 1966. It seems that our readers are out of the holiday daze enough to start sending in specimens - without blossoms or fruit, unfortunately. If these are not good enough for identification I'll ask them to send in better ones.

No. 1 - From Sebastopol: "From a tree almost 30 feet tall; dense foliage from top to bottom."

No. 2 - From Sebastopol also: "From a tree tubular in growth, turning red in the fall and 30 to 40 feet tall."

The man who sent the above specimens wants to know if we can recommend a good reference book that gives complete description of firs and pines and, most important, the rate of growth. We do not have a very extensive library in the office. Do you know of a book that would fill his needs?

No. 3 - From Santa Cruz: "Enclosed specimen is a native shrub that grows in the Santa Cruz area. It is understood that the Indians believed this shrub had medicinal value. What is the name of the plant and what was it used for?"

You would no doubt have to be a miracle-worker to identify the last scrawny specimen, but one never knows.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA FARMER

By Marjorie McAlinden
Marjorie McAlinden

MM:sc
Enc.